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INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 EUR-00 OIC-02 SCL-01 IO-19
L-03 VO-06 CA-02 DS-01 DSE-00 SCT-02 /037 W
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P 260926Z JAN 88
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7042
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL BARCELONA
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 00965

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, SCUL, CVIS, KN, US, KS
SUBJECT: ROKG VIEWS ON POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN
REPRESENTATION AT ST. LOUIS SKATING EVENT

REF: (A) TOKYO 915, (B) STATE 9706, (C) STATE 6777

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON JANUARY 23 MOFA NORTH AMERICA DIVISION PROVIDED US WITH THE FOLLOWING NON-PAPER OUTLINING THE ROKG'S POSITION ON NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATION AT THE FEBRUARY SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ST. LOUIS:

3. BEGIN TEXT OF MOFA NON-PAPER: THE INDOOR SHORT TRACK SPEED-SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE HELD SHORTLY IN ST. LOUIS IS AN EVENT HOSTED BY A LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT IN THE U.S. AND HAS NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE CALGARY WINTER OLYMPICS, ALTHOUGH IT IS DESCRIBED AS AN EXHIBITION GAME FOR THE LATTER. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE NORTH

KOREAN SIDE'S APPLICATION FOR U.S. ENTRY VISAS WAS SUBMITTED IN THE NAMES OF KOREAN RESIDENTS OF JAPAN AFFILIATED WITH "CHOSEN SOREN", THE PURPOSE OF THEIR TRAVEL IS TO REPRESENT NORTH KOREA. THEREFORE, THEIR APPLICATION SHOULD NOT BE REVIEWED IN THE SAME LIGHT AS APPLICATIONS FROM ORDINARY CHOSEN SOREN-AFFILIATED RESIDENTS OF JAPAN. RATHER, IT SHOULD BE EXAMINED IN THE CONTEXT OF U.S. SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA. IF AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME THE U.S. WERE TO ALLOW NORTH KOREA TO HOIST ITS NATIONAL FLAG PUBLICLY AT THE ST. LOUIS EVENT, IT WOULD GREATLY CONTRADICT THE INTENT OF RECENT U.S.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ROBERT J. MARTENS
DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 1998 199403292

PUNITIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA. IF A NORTH KOREAN SPORTS TEAM WERE GRANTED ENTRY INTO THE U.S. SO SOON AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT KAL BOMBING ATROCITY, THE CREDIBILITY OF U.S. MEASURES MAY BE CALLED INTO QUESTION. SUCH AN ACTION WOULD ALSO RUN COUNTER TO THE SENTIMENT OF OUR PEOPLE WHO DENOUNCE THE NORTH KOREAN ATROCITY. END TEXT.

4. COMMENT: THE ROKG'S POSITION ON THIS MATTER COMES AS NO SURPRISE. WE NOTE THAT ITS OBJECTIONS FOCUS CHIEFLY ON TIMING, LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF NORTH KOREAN PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE U.S.-HOSTED SPORTS EVENTS. END COMMENT. LILLEY##

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL